

## REMARKS

### I. PRELIMINARY REMARKS

Minor modifications have been made to the specification. No claims have been amended, added, or canceled. Claims 31-46 remain in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

### II. DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTIONS

Claims 31-46 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Applicant respectfully submits that the obviousness-type double patenting rejections have been obviated by the Terminal Disclaimers attached hereto.<sup>1</sup> As the Office Action indicated that claims 31-46 would be allowable upon the filing of the Terminal Disclaimers, applicant respectfully submits that claims 31-46 are in condition for allowance.

### III. CLOSING REMARKS

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all claims in the application are in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is courteously solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call applicant's undersigned representative at (310) 563-1458 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

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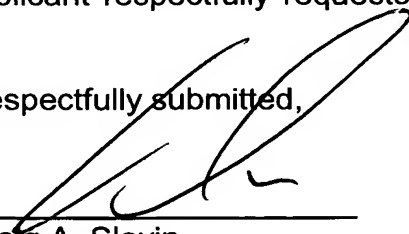
<sup>1</sup> Applicant notes for the record that the filing of a Terminal Disclaimer serves only to remove the obviousness-type double patenting rejection and raises neither a presumption, nor an estoppel, with respect to the merits of the rejection. See *Quad Environmental Technologies v. Union Sanitation District*, 20 USPQ2d 1393, 1394-95 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-2025. Should such fees be associated with an extension of time, applicant respectfully requests that this paper be considered a petition therefor.

3/21/05  
Date

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